



Address all communications for these columns to the Department Editor, Mrs. J. Wilone-Yates, President National Association of Colored Women, 2122 Tracy Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

## FRIENDSHIP.

Here's health to one whose heart is true as steel,  
Whose years have passed in Freedom's holy  
cause.

In caring for a brother's woe, a brother's weal,  
In fighting direful wrong and baneful laws,

Here's health to one whose lofty mien and brow,  
Bespeaks the noble mind, the spirit proud,  
That feareth not the tyrant bold. It ow,  
That cringeth not when traitors thunder loud.

Here's health and more of hale and hearty years  
For one who loved the fires of wit and joy,  
Who oft dispensed these gifts amidst his peers,  
And friends who sought a heart without alloy.

Although in twain, the fateful sisters three,  
Have cut the mazy web of many friends  
Who brightly traced life's morn and moon with  
thee,

A light within still glows and pleasure lends.

So here's a health to thee! Still may there be,  
Full many friends to cheer, to soothe, to love,  
Thus shall December, bleak and wintry see!  
A merry gleam of May! A spring tide from above!

Mrs. Booker T. Washington.

Readers of The Colored American are too well acquainted with the valuable and far-reaching work of Mrs. Margaret Washington, wife of Booker T. Washington, to need a lengthy sketch of this noble woman; but we are highly pleased to be able to present with the cut of Mrs. Washington a few facts of interest that may not be so generally known.

Mrs. Washington is a Mississippian



MRS. B. T. WASHINGTON.

by birth, having been reared in a small town in that state. When quite a girl she was sent to Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, where she took the classical course, graduating in 1889. She was looked upon as a model pupil, and as a senior was often monitor for lower class girls; and they, to this day, delight to tell of her excellent methods of discipline. After graduating from Fisk she came to Tuskegee and for four years was Dean of the Women's Department in that school. In 1893 she married Professor Booker T. Washington, and is now Superintendent of Girls' Industries at Tuskegee. Mrs. Washington has satisfactorily held many important official positions and is now President of the Southern Federation which meets in annual convention, December thirtieth and thirty-first in Vicksburg, Mississippi; 1st Vice President of the National Association of Colored Women and Editor of "Notes," the Association organ. Very modest in disposition, only those in her immediate vicinity know of the heroic work Mrs. Washington is doing among the women and girls of the Southland.

## Club Reminiscences.

MRS. B. T. WASHINGTON.

A number of years ago, when I sat and listened with rapt interest to the personal reminiscences of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's early club work, and to those of the sainted Miss Willard's early temperance labors, I little dreamed that the time was not far distant when the women of my own race would be as thoroughly enthusiastic as women were ten, fifteen, years ago.

Those fields were then comparatively new to the Anglo-Saxon race. Few had seen the great hidden power of these movements; and our time had not yet come. The years have passed, and from a few clubs scattered here and there among our women, have sprung state federations combined with the Northwestern and Southern federations and our National Association.

We are not far out from our formative period as sectional or National Federations, my mind takes a retrospective glance at the early days of our first effort in organizing a single woman's club. A meeting was called to discuss the necessity of having an organization for the higher mental development of our women. Thirteen women responded to the call and with an uncanny dread, bordering on superstitious awe, arising from what seemed an unpropitious beginning because of the "unlucky number," the club was organized.

Seven years of club life have gone. They have been years of encouragement and advance. Yet many of our club transactions were more otherwise than wise. Looking back now from what seems a superior club height compared with then, our lack of experience in parliamentary usages was amusing. For the sake of those whose mistakes in "Robert's" may be a thorn in the club flesh, let me suggest parliamentary drills. They helped us out of the Slough of Despond.

Our club aim was the higher mental development of women, once a week when ten ministers' wives, whose husbands were retired or in active service, met their preiding spirit—herself a minister's wife—they planned and worked for the forces that were in embryo in their respective churches.

The "town and country mothers' union" was another, banded together under their director, herself a mother, who helped the members of the union to look out for the interests of home and family. Talks were given on training and caring for children throughout all periods of their lives. Beautifying home, development of small industries, poultry raising and gardening, were among the practical subjects discussed and successfully experimented upon.

Another division took prison work, looked after those charged with minor offences. Small boys, whose evil associations had led them to country confines, were saved from the worse fate of a convict camp by the saving influence of the prison committee and literary programs were conducive to that end for the immediate club members; but in these early years, our strength to do lay in the knowledge of our weakness, and no outside work was attempted.

Among the pleasant events of those days, was an invitation from the Brooklyn Loyal Union to join that body, on condition of this club's taking the name of the Union. The Women's League of Washington extended an invitation for the club to become a branch of that if it would adopt its aims and constitution. Coming as these invitations did from older sources of club work, they served to strengthen the zeal of the band that grew and soon extended its borders.

It was the fall of '95 that found the club numbering just two times thirteen but nine divisions of work were taken under as many heads selected from the club. The first division ally was a club of ministers' wives. Denominationalism was forgotten appeals were made in behalf of the youthful sinner.

Two social purity circles were organized and conducted weekly. A domestic circle was another movement formed to train the town girls for their home duties. A division of small girls in sewing and older girls in cooking composed one circle for whom rooms were rented by the efforts of one of the social purity clubs. In these rooms the work was conducted.

The W. C. T. U. work came in for a share of interest on Sunday while the Current History Club met, read and reflected, then gave the benefit of their cogitations to the main divisions of the club.

Slowly, but surely, the ripples in the stream enlarged. There are thirteen divisions of the club that began with thirteen members. Not one division has fallen by the way. The offshoots from the main branch form the most interesting phase of the club work.

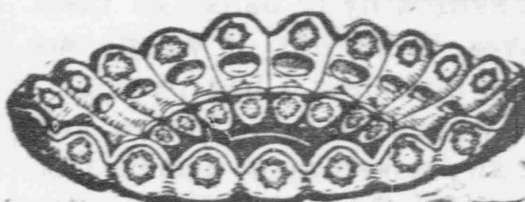
The mothers brought their boys to their union. The Frederick Douglass Willing Workers' Band sprang out of that for the boys. They attend the night school in the town, have their penny savings bank and are not only learning to read and write but to make walls and build houses, as brick masonry and carpentry are taught.

The girls' sewing and cooking classes have risen to the dignity of graded work in those lines daily in rooms properly fitted.

Eight miles in the country is a plantation settlement conducted on the plan of the college settlements in our larger cities. This plantation is an outgrowth of the mothers' union. The little cottage, garden, brick patch and poultry yard served as a model for the cabin homes on the plantation. A school for the children is conducted seven months in the year in the day, and for the parents and older ones at night. A penny bank and circles for the boys and girls on the plantation are conducted by a willing Dorcas who, with a stout plant-

(Continued on page 5)

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